

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW BIRDS FROM CHINA
AND JAPAN.

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[By permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.]

Mr. Arthur de C. Sowerby, who has been collecting natural history material for the U. S. National Museum in the Chinese Empire for a number of years, has from time to time sent in small lots of birds. During the past year a much larger series of fine skins was obtained in the Province of Chihli and from Manchuria, and a comparison of this material with that already possessed by the Museum has enabled me to differentiate a few forms not included in Mr. Sowerby's collections. These are described below.

As the distribution of the birds in the Chinese Empire, especially the interior, is not any too well known, I intend later to prepare a catalogue of Mr. Sowerby's collections, including such data as a study of his material permits.

For the loan of a series of seven specimens of *Dryocopus martius martius*, the author is indebted to the authorities of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

***Tetrastes bonasia vicinitas* subsp. nov.**

Type, U. S. National Museum, No. 120,574, adult male, Hakodate, Yezo, Japan, November 22, 1883. Collected by Harry V. Henson.

Similar to *Tetrastes bonasia bonasia* but much grayer above, the scapulars and frons with much more white. Wing, 175; tail, 139.5; culmen, 16.5.

Remarks.—Seebohm* in his description of *Tetrao bonasia septentrionalis* specifies no definite habitat, except that it is a Siberian arctic form. In

* Ibis, 1884, 430.

Mr. Sowerby's collection there are two adult males from near I-mien-po (near Ninguta), N. Kirin, Manchuria, taken in October, that I refer to *T. b. septentrionalis*. They are very much alike and differ from *T. b. vicinitas* in being darker gray above, the black barring upon the mantle more pronounced, in having a bare indication of the white scapular bar, and the barring below heavier. A female specimen from the Valley of the Yenesay, Lat. $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, seems to represent still another form, grayer than *T. b. bonasia* with more white spotting upon the scapulars and wings and the bars below darker and much more numerous. This Yenesay specimen is much nearer *T. b. vicinitas* than *T. b. bonasia* but differs from the former in not having so much white on the scapulars, the barring below more pronounced, and the bill smaller. Possibly it may represent *Tetrastes orientalis* Madasasz.*

Whenever a large series of these grouse from the various parts of its range can be got together and thoroughly studied, some interesting results are to be expected.

The following are the measurements of the series before me for comparison:

	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Tail</i>	<i>Culmen</i>
Three males, Europe	169.2	116.8	15.7
Two males, Manchuria †	161.5	110.2	16.7
One male, Yezo, Japan	175	139.5	16.5
One female, Europe	156	116	15
One female, Valley Yenesay	156	93	13.5
Two females, Yezo, Japan	167.5	115.5	14.7

***Dryocopus martius silvifragus* subsp. nov.**

Type, U. S. National Museum, No. 120,551, adult male, Hakodate, Yezo, Japan, December 2, 1884. Collected by Harry V. Henson.

Similar to *Dryocopus martius reichenowi* Kothe,‡ but black, not so slaty and bill smaller. Wing, 243; tail, 190; culmen, 62.

Remarks.—I have compared the Japanese bird with a male from I-mien-po (near Ninguta), N. Kirin, Manchuria, and a female from Hsing-lung-shan, 65 miles northeast of Peking, China, and a series of eight specimens from Europe. Hartert|| unites *D. m. reichenowi* with *D. m. martius* but, in my opinion, is not justified in doing so, as the former is a much larger bird in all its measurements and is also of a deeper slaty black. The Japanese specimens have a brownish cast to the black, especially noticeable upon the wings, but this is due most probably to the length of time the birds have been in the collection, as Doctor Stejneger§ in reporting upon them says they were of a "very intense black." The two specimens of *D. m. reichenowi* before me are of a very deep black

* Ann. Mus. Nat. Hung., vii, 1909, 178.

† *T. b. septentrionalis*.

‡ Orn. Monatsber., 1906, 95.

|| Vögel palaark Fauna, heft vii, 1912, 932.

§ Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XV, 1892, 301.

with a slight slaty cast, but leaving out of consideration the differences in the intensity of the black in the different specimens before me, as some of it is probably due to the length of time the birds have been kept in collections, whether exposed to light or not, the differences in the size of the bill will, in my opinion warrant the separation of an east Asiatic and a Japanese race.

A male from Sakhalin Island* agrees fairly well with Japanese birds and in measurements is even slightly smaller. For the present, I refer it to the Japanese race. Lönnberg† in writing upon the Sakhalin bird says they average a little larger and are more intensely black and glossy with the crimson of the head more brilliant than in European specimens. He also gives a table of measurements of ten specimens.

The material before me of the three races under consideration measures as follows:

	Wing	Tail	Culmen
Three males of <i>D. m. martius</i>	238.2	162.8	56.3
One male of <i>D. m. silvifragus</i>	243	190	62
One male of <i>D. m. reichenowi</i>	256	209	64
One male, Sakhalin Island	238	180	59
Three females of <i>D. m. martius</i> ‡	240	168.5	55.5
One female of <i>D. m. silvifragus</i>	240	185	59
One female of <i>D. m. reichenowi</i>	248	205	60

***Eophona melanura sowerbyi* subsp. nov.**

Type.—U. S. National Museum, No. 213,242, adult male, Chang Kow Hsien, Hupeh, China, February 4, 1908. Collected by Walter R. Zappey.

Similar to *E. m. melanura* but much lighter in color above and below; the rump lighter gray, inclining to whitish posteriorly (uniform neutral gray in *E. m. melanura*); the black of the wings, tail, and head less intense. Wing, 107.5; tail, 82.5; culmen, 20.5; tarsus, 22; middle toe, 18.

Female differs from the same sex in *E. m. melanura* in being lighter below with the top of the head concolor with the back, which is near Saccardo's umber (grayish in *E. m. melanura*) the black of the wings and tail less intense. Wing, 104; tail, 82; culmen, 21; tarsus, 22; middle toe, 18.

Remarks.—*Loxia melanura* Gmelin§ was founded on Le Gros-Bec de la Chine of Sonnerat.|| Latham's¶ description seems to be a mere translation of Sonnerat. The bird that served Sonnerat for his description

* U. S. N. M. No. 159,334.

† Journ. Coll. Sci. Imp. Univ. Tokyo, xxiii, Art. 14, 1908, 44.

‡ One female in this series is extraordinarily large, much larger than any male of *D. m. martius* before me, and really nullifies the value of this set of female averages for comparison.

§ Sys. Nat., i, pt. i, 1788, 853.

|| Voy. Ind. Orient. et Chine, ii, 1782, 199.

¶ Syn. Birds, ii, pt. i, 1783, 145.

was probably procured somewhere on the coast where his expedition touched and not from the interior.

The National Museum possesses two males and three females from Kiangyin, near the mouth of the Yang-tze-kiang, males taken in February and the females in December. They are all uniformly dark and so different from the Hupeh specimens that no ornithologist upon comparison would think of uniting them. The Hupeh male in color is very much like *E. m. migratoria* but is a little lighter and has a heavier bill. The male of *E. m. melanura* has the chest mouse gray while in *E. m. sowerbyi* it is a pale mouse gray and less extensive in area, occurring in a semi-ring below the black of the throat, the rest of the chest being washed with vinaceous buff.

The three forms measure as follows:

				<i>Depth</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Tail</i>	<i>Culmen of bill</i>
One	<i>E. m. sowerbyi</i>	107.5	82.5	20.5
Two	<i>E. m. melanura</i>	102.7	80.5	22.2
Three	<i>E. m. migratoria</i>	98.3	73.3	20.5
	<i>Females</i>			
One	<i>E. m. sowerbyi</i>	104	82	21
Three	<i>E. m. melanura</i>	101.7	74.2	21.2
Four	<i>E. m. migratoria</i>	96.5	66.6	19.4